WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image coding apparatus comprising:

a dynamic image coder for inputting a video signal defining a dynamic image and carrying out first and second coding processings for said video signal, to output an

5 output bit stream signal; and

a coding control section for controlling a coding operation of said dynamic image coder,

wherein said coding control section controls said dynamic image coder to continuously carry out said first and second coding processings without providing a pause

10 period within a predetermined period.

2. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage section connected to said dynamic image coder, wherein

said dynamic image coder stores, in said storage section, information for a

15 coding processing which is obtained by said first coding processing and executing said second coding processing by using said information for a coding processing which is obtained from said storage section, to output said output bit stream signal.

3. The image coding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

20 said dynamic image coder includes first and second partial coding sections for executing first and second partial coding processings which are similar and have different contents,

said first coding processing includes said first partial coding processing to be carried out by said first partial coding section, and

25 said second coding processing includes said second partial coding processing to

be carried out by said second partial coding section.

4. The image coding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said information for a coding processing includes a coding parameter defining

5   various parameters which are necessary for said second coding processing.

5. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage section connected to said dynamic image coder, wherein

said dynamic image coder stores, in said storage section, a first bit stream signal

10   obtained by said first coding processing and executes said second coding processing to

obtain a second bit stream signal, to output one bit stream signal as said output bit stream

signal based on a result of a comparison of said second bit stream signal with said first bit

stream signal obtained from said storage section.

15   6. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said first and second coding processings are carried out for a video signal

corresponding to the same frame.

7. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

20   said first and second coding processings are carried out for video signals

corresponding to different frames.

8. The image coding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said storage section stores said information for a coding processing on a macro

25   block unit two-dimensionally.